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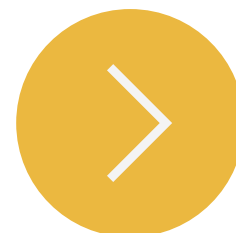
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VERBS L6 – COMPOUND VERBS

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WHAT ARE COMPOUND VERBS?

In German, we can create more verbs by adding prefixes to already existing verbs. **This changes the meaning of the verb.**

When conjugated, some verbs are separated from their prefix.

→ **Separable verbs.**

For other verbs, the verb and the prefix remain together even after conjugation.

→ **Inseparable verbs.**

The prefix determines to which of these groups a verb belongs to.

Simple Verb:

- „Ich **stehe** in der Küche.“

Separable Verb:

- „Ich **stehe** jeden Morgen um 6 Uhr auf.“

Inseparable Verb:

- „Ich verstehe dich nicht.“

SEPARABLE PREFIXES

The most important ones are: ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, ein-, gegen-, hoch-, los-, mit-, nach-, vor-, weg-, weiter-, zurück-, da-, hin-, her-, raus-, rein-, rüber-, runter-

Others are: auseinander-, bei-, empor-, entgegen-, entlang-, entzwei-, fern-, fest-, fort-, gegenüber-, heim-, hinterher-, nieder-, zu, zurecht-, zusammen-

- abfahren – „Ich **fahre** morgen ab.“
- aufstehen – „Du **stehst** um 6 Uhr auf.“
- rausgehen – „Ich **gehe** heute nicht raus.“
- mitkommen – „Ich **komme** zu dir mit.“

**Tip:**

Most separable prefixes can be used (in other situations) as a preposition or an adverb.

The verb will probably be separable if you know the prefix as an independent word with an independent meaning.

INSEPARABLE PREFIXES

The most important ones: *be-, ent-, er-, ver-, zer-*

Others are: *miss-, fehl-, de(s)-, dis-, ge-, in-, re-*

- verstehen – „Du **verstehst** den Satz nicht.“
- bestehen – „Er **besteht** die Prüfung am Montag.“
- erfinden – „Ich **erfinde** etwas Neues.“
- entdecken – „Er **entdeckt** ein Geheimnis.“

SEPARABLE AND INSEPARABLE

For the prefixes *durch-, hinter-, über-, unter-, um-, wieder-* and *wider-*, the verb determines whether it is separable or inseparable.

- "durchqueren": not separable
„Ich **durchquere** den Tunnel.“
- "durchschneiden": separable
„Ich **schneide** das Band **durch**.“

Some words are both separable and inseparable.

In these cases, the meaning differs (This occurs very rarely).

- „Er **umfährt** das Schild.“ → He drives around the sign.
- „Er **fährt** das Schild **um**.“ → He drives into the sign.



Advice:

If the stress is on the 2nd syllable, the verb is not separable.

CONJUGATION

No matter which prefix is at the beginning or whether it is separable or inseparable, **the verb is conjugated just like the simple verb** (without prefix).

- „Ich **schlafe** immer sehr spät **ein**.“ - einschlafen
- „Er **steht** montags um 6 Uhr **auf**.“ - aufstehen

WHEN DO YOU HAVE TO SEPARATE?

You only have to separate a separable prefix if you conjugate the verb:

- „Ich **schlafe** immer sehr spät **ein**.“

(If you conjugate "einschlafen" → You have to separate it.)

You do not separate it if a modal or auxiliary verb is conjugated:

- „Ich **kann** nicht **einschlafen**.“

("Können" is conjugated, while the separable verb "einschlafen" is not ⇒ you do not separate "einschlafen".)

Inseparable Verbs:

- verstehen – „Du **verstehst** den Satz nicht.“
- bestehen – „Er **besteht** die Prüfung am Montag.“
- erfinden – „Ich **erfinde** etwas Neues.“
- entdecken – „Er **entdeckt** ein Geheimnis.“

No change! The verb is in the 2nd position! The conjugation remains the same!

SUMMARY

- In German, we can create more verbs by adding prefixes to already existing verbs. **This changes the meaning of the verb.**
- Depending on the prefix, the compound verb is either separable or inseparable.
- We disconnect separable prefixes only if the compound verb is in P2.
- The separated prefix goes to the very end of the sentence.
- The conjugation of the main verb does not change.

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